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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/789,095	02/27/2004	Timothy D. Sellis	18347 USA	7706

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EXAMINER

MATZEK, MATTHEW D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1771

DATE MAILED: 12/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/789,095

Applicant(s)

SELLIS ET AL.

Examiner

Matthew D. Matzek

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-67 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-67 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/27/04, 6/20/05
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-7, 9-11, 14, 16-17, 19-20, 22-23, 25-41, 43-44, 48, 50-51, 53-54, and 56-67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gladfelter et al. (US 6,309,721) in view of Cook, II (US 2003/0012944).

a. Gladfelter et al. teach a flexible protective sleeve comprising an outer layer of a bi-laminate of a metal foil and a film of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) wherein the film has been flashed with aluminum (col. 4, lines 22-27). This outer layer anticipates the instantly claimed reflective layer with the PET layer being the flexible, resilient layer and the flashed layer of aluminum constitutes the metalized film layer. The metalized film layer may be adhesively attached to the foil layer (col. 4, lines 25-27). Under the outer layer comprising metal foil, aluminum metalized film, and layer of PET is support layer **11** which may be polyester or other heat settable polymeric materials (col. 4, line 53-55) and inner layer **12** which may be felt (col. 4, lines 27-29, Figure 1). The invention of Gladfelter et al. is directed for use and a sleeving product with the foil layer facing outwardly and the felt (damping) layer. The invention is to be used as a tube with a hollow central core. The invention of Gladfelter et al. is silent as to the use of a netting layer to serve as support layer **11** and aluminum foil for the metal foil layer.

- b. Cook, II teaches a reflective insulating material comprising outer layers of reflective foil, multiple layers of foam and a mesh material sandwiched between the layer of foam material all adhered together by adhesive (Abstract). The outer layer of foil is made of aluminum [0014]. A layer of adhesive has been placed between each layer to assist in maintaining the structural integrity of the article (Abstract).
- c. Since Gladfelter et al. and Cook, II are from the same field of endeavor (i.e. reflective insulating materials) the purpose disclosed by Cook, II would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Gladfelter et al.
- d. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to have made the metal foil layer of Gladfelter et al. aluminum foil and replaced the polymeric support layer a mesh material. The skilled artisan would have been motivated by the desire to make use aluminum foil for its reflective properties and the use of a mesh layer provides directional support to the protective sleeve. It would have also been obvious to have used the pressure sensitive adhesive of Gladfelter et al. (col. 4, lines 39-41) between each layers of the combined invention, as described by Cook, II and have said adhesive extend through the interstices of the netting layer. The artisan would have been motivated by the desire to impart greater structural integrity to the combined article via the application of PSA and by extending through the interstices the adhesive would be in contact with more surface area resulting in a stronger bond. Examiner equates the applied mesh layer to the instantly claimed netting layer. Support for this assertion has been provided by the *Textile Glossary*.

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e. The orientational limitations set forth in claims 36-39 have been met by the illustrated embodiments of Figures 2, 2A and 2B.

f. The combined inventions of Gladfelter et al. and Cook, II disclose the claimed invention except for the instantly claimed values for the thicknesses for the metalized film layer. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have made the metalized films of 10 to 200 angstroms or 0.0005 to about 0.001 inches thick, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233. As such, claims 10 and 44 are rejected.

2. Claims 8, 21, 42 and ⁵⁵~~52~~ are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gladfelter et al. (US 6,309,721) in view of Cook, II (US 2003/0012944) as applied to claims 7, 20, 41 and 53 above, and further in view of Gladfelter et al. (US 5,849,379). The inventions of Gladfelter et al. ('721) and Cook, II are silent as to the thicknesses of the metal foil and felt layers.

a. The '379 patent teaches a split sleeve for insulation comprising an outer metal foil layer (Abstract) of 0.001 inches (col. 2, lines 62-65) and an inner layers of felt of about 2mm (0.079 in) (col. 2, lines 57-59).

b. Since the inventions of the '721 and '379 patents are from the same field of endeavor (i.e. insulative sleeves), the purpose disclosed in the '379 patent would have been recognized in the pertinent art of the '721 patent.

c. It would have been obvious at the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the article of the '721 patent to have a foil layer of 0.001 inches and a felt layer of 0.079 inches. The skilled artisan would have been motivated by the desire to create an insulative article that is cost effective and possesses high durability (col. 1, lines 31-36).

3. Claims 18 and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gladfelter et al. (US 6,309,721) in view of Cook, II (US 2003/0012944) as applied to claims 17 and 51 above, and further in view of Cohen et al. (US 2004/0126597). The inventions of Gladfelter et al. ('721) and Cook, II are silent as to the thicknesses of the adhesive layers.

a. Cohen et al. teach a material for covering insulation surfaces to protect them from environmental factors. The covering comprises multiple layers of foil with layers of pressure sensitive adhesive (PSA) disposed between said foil layers (Abstract). The PSA layers are typically 0.079 mm [0041].

b. Since Gladfelter et al. and Cohen et al. are from the same field of endeavor (i.e. covering for insulative articles), the purpose disclosed by Cohen et al. would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Gladfelter et al.

c. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have made the article of Gladfelter et al. with layers of PSA of 0.079mm. The skilled artisan would have been motivated by the desire to create an insulative article with improved structural integrity without making the article heavy or costly due to excessive use of PSA between the layers.

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4. Claims 12, 13, 24 and 45-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gladfelter et al. (US 6,309,721) in view of Cook, II (US 2003/0012944) as applied to claims 1, 22 and 31 above, and further in view of Bunyan (US 6,410,137). The inventions of Gladfelter et al. ('721) and Cook, II are silent as to the orientation of the elongated members or their associated bending stiffness.

a. Bunyan teaches an electromagnetic shielding wrap comprising pressure sensitive adhesive (Abstract), metal foils and polyester meshes (col. 6, lines 18-56). Illustrated in Figure 3 is the polyester mesh of interlayer **18** that reinforces the foil member 12 for easier handling and cutting (col. 6, lines 51-60). The first and second elongated members of **18** are oriented at right angles to one another and the members that wrap around the body of the central core **52** are oriented perpendicular to an axis extending lengthwise along the central core.

b. Since Gladfelter et al. and Bunyan are from the same field of endeavor (i.e. insulative articles), the purpose disclosed by Bunyan would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Gladfelter et al.

c. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the article of Gladfelter et al. with the polyester mesh of Bunyan. The skilled artisan would have been motivated by the desire to have imparted the article of Gladfelter et al. with tear resistance and reinforcement of the foil member for easier handling and cutting without deleteriously affecting the overall drapability of the article (col. 6, lines 57-62).

- d. Claims 13 and 46 are rejected as it would have been obvious to have made the first members (width) of the reinforcing mesh with greater bending stiffness than the second elongated members (length). In the associated field of endeavor of the applied inventions the applied article is used to wrap around pipes, wires, ductwork, etc. that is often not linear. Therefore, the lengthwise elongated members must be more flexible (lower bending stiffness) in order to conform to the various change in directions. The width direction elongated members should have a greater bending stiffness in order for the article to maintain its structural integrity during its usage and better conform to the circumscribed pipes, wires, ductwork, etc.
5. Claims 15 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gladfelter et al. (US 6,309,721) in view of Cook, II (US 2003/0012944) as applied to claims 1 and 48 above, and further in view of Baccus et al. (US 2002/0127933). The inventions of Gladfelter et al. ('721) and Cook, II are silent as to the use of polypropylene in place of a polyester such as PET.

Gladfelter et al. discloses the claimed invention except that PET instead of polypropylene, Baccus et al. shows polypropylene is an equivalent structure known in the art. Therefore, because these two materials (polyester and polypropylene) may be used interchangeably as textile meshes in insulative articles and as such were art-recognized equivalents at the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to substitute polypropylene for polyester.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or

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improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

6. Claims 1-67 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-18 of copending Application No. 11/077306. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both inventions are directed to textile-reinforced metal foil laminates.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Conclusion

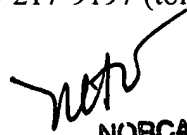
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew D. Matzek whose telephone number is (571) 272-2423. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on (571) 272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

mdm


NORCATORRES
PRIMARY EXAMINER